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AUTHOR Toledo, Eulynda
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ABSTRACT

The conference was attended by 53 high school seniors and 65 parents, teachers, administrators, and counselors from Albuquerque Public Schools, Los Lunas, Bernalillo, Jemez, Grants, and Albuquerque Indian School. After an opening address and two speakers, participants attended three workshops. In the first workshop, a panel of students presented the occupational areas of telecommunications, electronics, food preparation, offset-lithography, optical technology, engineering, dental program, drafting, and business education. General information on college life and financial aid was presented by five students in the second workshop. The last workshop covered current legal, economic, political, social, and educational Indian issues. After each workshop, participants completed evaluation forms. Some responses to these evaluations indicated that: the majority felt the workshops had informed them of some important matters they will face in vocational school or college, as Indian students: the majority felt that establishing goals was the most important issue they should be concerned about before entering a vocational school: 21 students were interested in entering college: many felt that financial aid was the most important issue they should be concerned about before entering college. After the workshops, displays and booths were opened to the participants. The addresses were given during an evening session. Suggestions were for future workshops on financial aid, career education, or supportive services. (NQA)

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NEW MEXICO INDIAN EDUCATION BOARD OF REGENTS

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Report
&
Evaluations

on

Opportunities Conference
January 19, 1978
Albuquerque Indian School

by: Eulynda Toledo
Education Specialist
New Mexico Indian Education
Board of Regents

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Introduction

The New Mexico Indian Education Board of Regents and Tony Jojola, South Area Albuquerque Public Schools Urban Indian Home-School Liaison, with the cooperation of the Albuquerque Indian School sponsered an Opportunities Conference for Indian High School Seniors on January 19, 1978 at the Albuquerque Indian School. High School Seniors from Albuquerque Public Schools, Los Lunas, Bernalillo, Jemez, Grants and Albuquerque Indian School were invited. Besides High School Seniors, parents, teachers, administrators and counselors attended the conference. 118 person registered for the conference and out of that number were 53 students and 65 adults.

Agenda

The conference was scheduled to begin at 12:30 p.m. and to end at 9:30 p.m. but due to bad weather, the conference wrapped up earlier than planned

The conference began with a welcome by the Organizers: Tony Jojola - APS South Area Home-School Liaison, Pat Baca - Director AIS Guidance & Social Services, John Noon - AIS Career Counselor and Eulynda Toledo - New Mexico Indain Education Board of Regents.

An opening address was presented by Joe Abeita AIS superintendant, who urged students to take this opportunity to gain information during this event, necessary for their future plans.

He was followed by speaker Regis Pecos, AIO Technical Assistance Advisor who encouraged students to develop self-awareness which leads to the development of career development. Carletta Suina, Ph. D. Candidate UNM, was the second speaker who spoke on "Life you get out of it what you put into it," challanging students to realize what their responsibilities are.

After an overview and introducation of workshop facilitators by Tony and Eulynda, the audience broke up into their respective groups to attend the workshops. There were three workshops and each person who registered was given a group number, so they could attend all three workshops and rotate after each workshop concluded.

The three workshops were:

1. Vocational Education Workshop conducted by a panel of nine Southwestern Indian Polytechnical Institute Students who presented the occupational areas of Tele-com., Electronices, Food-prep., Offset-Lithography, Optical Technology, Engineering, Dental Program, Drafting and Business Education. The audience enjoyed their presentations very much, as indicated in one of the evaluations: "Talks were very interesting, open and valuable; quite a commendable group."
2. College Workshop conducted by two university students from the University of New Mexico, Lisa Chavez an undergratuate and Nancy Pioche a graduate student, Elouise Chicharillo and Allie David, recent college graduates who are presently employed and Bob Mondragon who gave out necessary financial aid information. The workshop was conducted in a very informal atmosphere. The facilitators presented to their audience general information on college life, and also gave students much encourgement in continuing their education.
3. The Current Indian Issues Workshop was conducted by Regis Pecos who covered the Legal and Economic Issues, Ralph Charley on Medical Issues, Ron Sarracino on Political and Social issues and Carletta Suina on Educational issues. This was one of the more difficult workshops to conduct, since time was limited and coverage of the issues had to be very general. Nevertheless, the audience gained much needed information.

After the workshops, displays and booths were opened in the library, ranging from Universities to Military Institutions. At this time, students and parents were given a chance to talk with representatives from these institutions and interested students filled out forms and applications.

Dinner was provided at the Albuquerque Indian School Cafeteria.

The evening session began with an address to parents and students by Mr. Bernard Kayate, Executive Director for the New Mexico Indian Education Board of Regents. He urged parents to give support to their children as they pursue institutions of higher learning. Nancy Pioche was not able to present "Institutional Grants given in the name of Native Americans", so Eulynda Toledo gave a brief presentation on the importance of parents and students educating themselves on where funds go to when current grants are given to Universities and Colleges to research and study Indian groups. The important issue was whether the funds really benefit what the purpose states or whether the funds benefit the insititutions granted.

After the presentations, the audience again broke up into their respective workshops. A special group of interested participants was formed to discuss the conference and the possibilities of follow-up for the event.

The Following suggestions were made for future workshops:

1. Financial Aid Workshop - fill out F.A.F and F.F.S forms include parents and students
2. Counselor's workshop
3. ACT Orientation
4. Supportive Services
5. Career Education

Other suggestions:

1. Recruit students to recruit other students to attend
2. Make the Package Attractive; have entertainment
3. Have a Positive Theme
4. Include Freshman as facilitators from Colleges because they are still in the process of "trying to make it"
5. Invite institutions other than New Mexico
6. Coordinate conferences with Indian Clubs from local Colleges and Vo-tech institutions.
7. Conduct workshops in specific areas, i.e. Current Issues - one workshop in Education Issues, one workshop in Economic Issues etc.

The conference closed with each respective workshop concluding.

The day was a success, in that students who attended realized the concern and dedication of the Indian people who shared themselves with them.

Again, this conference was a learning experience and opened some doors to continuing the development of our Indian Youth.

School Represented:

1. Cibola High School APS
2. Rio Grande High School APS
3. Manzano High School APS
4. Del Norte High School APS
5. Valley High School APS
6. Albuquerque Indian School
7. Los Lunas High School
8. Jemez Valley High School

Organization Prepresented:

1. Native American Studies UNM
2. Native American Program College of Engineering UNM
3. National Indian Youth Council
4. AIPC Schalorships
5. Laguna Higher Ed.
6. Four Directions NAS UNM
7. Americans for Indian Opportunity
8. APS Urban Indian Title IV
9. BIA Albuquerque Area Office
10. NIYC Rec. Program
11. New Mexico Indian Education Board of Regents

Booths and Displays:

1. New Mexico State University
2. NMSU Engineering Program
3. Vo-Tech Albuquerque
4. University of New Mexico Native American Studies

Booths and Displays:

5. UNM Native American Program College of Engineering
6. Talent Search
7. Haskell Jr. College
8. BIA Higher Ed Scholarship Program
9. AIPC Scholarship Program
10. Southwestern Polytechnical Institute
11. Army
12. Navy
13. Air Force
14. Marines

Evaluation

Evaluation Forms for each Workshop were handed out to students, parents, and other participants in the workshop. The following are responses from participants; the question is stated and the number of times the response was given is indicated and also written responses are listed:

VOCATIONAL EDUCATION WORKSHOP

1. Has this workshop informed you of some important matters you will face in a vocational education school, as an Indian student?

Yes	Somewhat	No	No response
12	3	1	1

2. What do you think is the most important issue you should be concerned about before entering a vocational education school?

a. Establishing Goals - this response was given seven (7) times
b. Financial Aid - this response was given two (2) times
c. Awareness of the basic courses offered - this response was given two (2) times
d. Having a good background in English and Reading

3. Are you interested in attending a vocational education school?

Yes	No	Undecided	No response
9	1	7	0

4. What do you need more information on?

a. Financial Aids - 2
b. Business Administration - 2
c. Dental programs
d. Occupational Drafting
e. Engineering
f. Auto mechanics
g. Courses offered
h. Jobs available
i. Scholarships

5. Is your high school providing adequate information on entering a vocational education school as an Indian student?

Yes	No	No response
7	6	4

Some comments:

"It was really interesting; found information I never knew"

"I think this was the most interesting out of the three workshops offered"

"It was very interesting and the speakers were very nice and their speeches about the different vocations was interesting"

COLLEGE WORKSHOP

1. Has this workshop informed you of some important matters you will face in college, as an Indian student?

Yes	Somewhat	No	No response
20	4	0	1

2. What do you think is the most important issue you should be concerned about before entering college?

a. Financial Aid - 8
b. Understanding the school system i.e. credit hours - 4
c. Establishing a Major - 3
d. Preparing for college, i.e. the transition from high school to college - 2
e. What is expected of a student in college
f. Student motivation
g. Proving yourself and making it
h. Distance from home

3. Are you interested in entering a college?

Yes	No	Undecided	No response
21	0	1	3

4. What do you need more information on?

a. Financial Aid - 4
b. Survival and Adjustment
c. More questions from students
d. Day to day expectation of a student
e. Chances of getting jobs
f. Out of state colleges
h. Law school
i. None - 9

Some comments:

"Need to meet more often"

"It was really informative"

"Excellant meeting"

CURRENT ISSUES WORKSHOP

1. Which one of the issues are you most interested in and concerned about?

   a. Education - 7
   b. Water Rights - 5
   c. Land Rights - 4
   d. Health - 3
   e. Taxation - 2
   f. Abrogation of Indian treaties - 2
   g. No response - 6

2. How do you think you can contribute to solving this problem that is facing Indian people today? (this is in response to the answer given on question #1)

   a. Get Higher Education, i.e. a college degree
   b. Encourage other students to go to school
   c. Educate myself in these issues
   d. Make something of myself
   e. Work in the health proffessions
   f. Attend Law school
   g. Inform other students in my classes
   h. Keep talking about it
   i. Teach realistic and relevant concerns to our Indian students
   j. No response - 10

Some Student Reponses:

3. What are your feelings on tribes controlling their natural resources?

   a. My feelings are very strong and I think that Indians have the right to keep what is their's - if we stick together we can all fight for our rights.

   b. They all should keep what they have - especially the traditional up-bringing of children.

   c. Tribes should definitely be the controllers of their natural resources.

   d. They should know how to run their own natural resources, rather than having the white man running it for them.

   e. I think tribes should hold on to their natural resources, and do everything to keep it.

4. State some of the problems in your health programs (hospitals, clinics, CHRs etc.)

   a. Hospitals and clinics don't have enough doctors to go around. You have to wait all day and some people are too sick to do that.

   b. CHRs - sometimes when you need them for an emergency, you can't find anybody at the office or at home.

   c. Having to pay your own bills

   d. Too isolated; great distances away.

   e. Not enough Indian doctors, nurses, CHRs etc.

   f. There is a shortage of help in PHS, also the waiting stops me from going there very often.

5. As an Indian student, what are some of the problems you face in getting a good education?

a. They label us in the lowest grades.

b. Discrimination

c. Getting into a very highly educated school

d. Teachers and principals are prejudiced

e. Overcoming stereotypes of Indians

f. No Indian teachers

g. Funding

h. Good counseling for Indian students

6. Has this workshop helped you in becoming aware of some of the Current Indian Issues?

Yes	Somewhat	No	No response
18	6	0	4

Some comments:

"Very interesting and helpful. By helpful I mean it helped me learn of some issues I didn't know about."

"I learned a little, enough to know what's going on."

"Try to talk in simpler English, I didn't understand half of what was said."

Some comments on the Conference:

"They covered a great deal and made me more aware and I'm glad I know a little more. It was a great help."

"I thought that it was very informative and I felt the speakers were very good and I felt they really wanted to help."

" I enjoyed it very much. This conference has affirmed many things already said to me."

"It is really the best, I tell you. Thank you all so much."

"It opened my mind to other careers."

"It was an interesting conference of Indian people speaking on behalf of Indian Youth"

"I have learned some things that I didn't even know about. It is something good to come to."

"This conference really helped me to understand things I didn't know before."